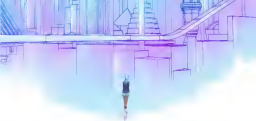


MY PARENTS FIRST TOOK ME
TO KAKU CITY TEN YEARS AGO





IT WAS SO BIG, AND I WAS SO SMALL



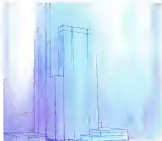
I'VE NEVER BEEN SCARED
OF THE OCEAN, BUT THIS?



IT FELT LIKE I
COULD DROWN.

ALWAYS
HUMAN

38 - ten years ago



THE SCHOOL MY PARENTS WANTED ME TO ATTEND WAS JUST AS BIG AND BUSY AS EVERYTHING ELSE.





SUNATI, HAVE
YOU CONNECTED
TO THE OPEN
DAY APP?

YES
MAMI



GREAT!

SO WHILE
WE'RE DOING
BORING ADULT STUFF,
YOU CAN USE YOUR
LENS TO TOUR
THE SCHOOL.

OKAY
MAMI

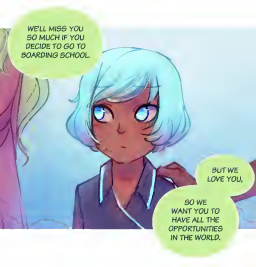


SWEETHEART,
IF YOU DON'T WANT
TO GO TO BOARDING
SCHOOL THAT'S YOUR
CHOICE, OKAY?

BUT WE WANT
YOU TO GIVE THIS
PLACE A CHANCE.

YOUR MUM
AND I CAN'T TEACH
YOU ABOUT ALL
THE THINGS THAT
INTEREST YOU

AND WE DEFINITELY
DON'T HAVE THE SORT OF
TECHNOLOGY THAT
THEY'VE GOT HERE
not at the outpost



WE'LL MISS YOU
SO MUCH IF YOU
DECIDE TO GO TO
BOARDING SCHOOL

BUT WE
LOVE YOU,

SO WE
WANT YOU TO
HAVE ALL THE
OPPORTUNITIES
IN THE WORLD.



YOU KNOW,
YOU MIGHT REALLY
LIKE IT HERE.

CAN YOU
TRY TO HAVE
FUN TODAY?

OKAY

I'LL TRY.



I DON'T THINK
I'LL BE MUCH HELP
WITH THE ART
SHOWCASE.

TRUST ME, YOU'LL
DO GREAT!
*Oliver, you're
really talented!*

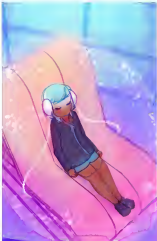


NOPE, I CAN'T
SUPERVISE THE
VR LABS NOW,

I WANNA SEE
THE E-SPORTS
TOURNAMENT
lazy? no? yeah









HEY,
HELLO?

YOUR
HALF HOUR
IS UP



E-EXCUSE
ME MISS

WOULD IT
MAYBE BE OKAY
FOR ME TO JOIN THE
QUEUE AGAIN?

SO I CAN,
UM, CAN I HAVE
ANOTHER GO?

YEAH,
SURE?

DO WHATEVER
YOU WANT.

YAY,
THANK
YOU!



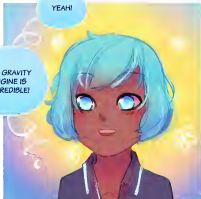




A pink-haired anime girl with a unicorn horn and cat ears. She has long, flowing pink hair, a small pink unicorn horn on her forehead, and large pink cat ears. She has large, expressive yellow eyes and a slight smile. She is wearing a light green top. The background is a soft, pastel blue and purple gradient with some faint, glowing light effects.

THIS IS MY
FOURTH TIME
QUEUEING UP
I didn't ask for
permission though

ISNT THE VR
SYSTEM HERE
AWESOME?





AND THERE ARE
SO MANY TOUCH
PARAMETERS

The image shows two anime-style characters in a conversation. On the left, a character with long, flowing pink hair and a green top is speaking. On the right, a character with short, vibrant blue hair and a dark blue top is listening. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting with warm yellow and orange light. Two speech bubbles are present: a pink one on the left and a blue one on the right. The blue speech bubble contains a small blue flower icon above the text.

AND THE 
FLUID DYNAMICS,
WOW, HOW IS THAT
EVEN POSSIBLE?



~~~~~  
I CAN'T WAIT  
TO COME HERE  
NEXT YEAR.

oh,  
DO YOU LIVE  
NEARBY?



NAH, MY  
FAMILY'S IN  
MELBOURNE.



BUT I DONT  
MIND MOVING.



SOME OF  
THE WORLD'S BEST  
VR ARTISTS LIVE  
IN KAKU CITY

AND I'M  
GOING TO BE AN  
ARCHIVIST WHEN I  
GROW UP.

SO I NEED  
TO LEARN FROM  
THE BEST.

AN  
ARCHIVIST?

YOU KNOW,  
THE PEOPLE WHO  
DIGITALLY DUPLICATE  
HERITAGE SITES?





IT'S LIKE THEY'RE  
THE GUARDIANS  
OF HISTORY.

I WANT TO  
BE A PART  
OF THAT.





THAT'S SO  
COOL



YOU'RE  
REALLY  
COOL



I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT I WANT TO BE  
WHEN I GROW UP.

I DON'T  
EVEN KNOW  
WHAT SCHOOL  
I WANT TO  
GO TO.

MY PARENTS  
WOULD LIKE ME  
TO COME HERE



BUT I'M NOT  
SURE IF I  
WANT TO,

I'LL MISS  
THEM SO  
MUCH

AND I  
WON'T KNOW  
ANYONE HERE.





IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH A CHANCE  
ENCOUNTER CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE.



IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH ONE  
PERSON CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE.



MY NAME'S  
RAE

I- I'M  
SUNATI.

THE CITY WAS  
STILL BIG.

THE SCHOOL  
WAS STILL BUSY.

BUT IT NO LONGER FELT  
LIKE I WAS DROWNING.



ALRIGHT!

NOW IF WE  
MEET UP NEXT  
YEAR, WE'LL ALREADY  
BE FRIENDS.

THIS GIRL HAD THROWN  
ME A LIFELINE.

Thank you for reading!



[ALWAYSHUMANCOMIC.TUMBLR.COM](https://ALWAYSHUMANCOMIC.TUMBLR.COM)

[WALKINGNORTHTUMBLR.COM](https://WALKINGNORTHTUMBLR.COM)

[PATREON.COM/WALKINGNORTH](https://PATREON.COM/WALKINGNORTH)

## SPECIAL GUESTS



THECONFUSEDHYENA.  
TUMBLR.COM



AMY AND OLIVER FROM  
«SPACE BOY» HERE  
ON LINE WEBTOON



CRYSTAL FROM  
PROJECT-SOLACE.COM



FORESTOFFPAPER.  
TUMBLR.COM

(HAPPY BELATED  
BIRTHDAY!)



REN FROM  
ACETHEXISCOMIC.COM



THIS WAS MEANT  
TO BE IVALO FROM  
«IMMORTAL NERD»  
BUT IT DOESN'T REALLY  
LOOK LIKE HIM, WHOOPS